

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) A gas generation system for providing a gas flow, comprising:

a reformer;

an evaporator for evaporating at least one component to be supplied to the reformer, thereby producing a gas flow comprising at least one carbon compound and water vapor; and

a normalizing stage connected between the evaporator and the reformer ~~by which~~ including a primary side where temperature valleys and peaks of the gas flow are equalized to within a temperature range below a maximal allowable reformer inlet temperature and a secondary side via which heat is supplied to the primary side.

2. (Original) A gas generation system according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one carbon compound is a hydrocarbon or alcohol.

3. (Original) A gas generation system according to Claim 1, wherein the evaporator comprises several evaporation stages and wherein the normalizing stage is connected after the last evaporation stage.

4. (Currently amended) A gas generation system ~~according to Claim 1, for~~
providing a gas flow, comprising:

a reformer;

an evaporator for evaporating at least one component to be supplied to the
reformer, thereby producing a gas flow comprising at least one carbon compound
and water vapor; and

a normalizing stage connected between the evaporator and the reformer by
which temperature valleys and peaks of the gas flow are equalized to within a
temperature range below a maximal allowable reformer inlet temperature,

wherein the normalizing stage is an adiabatic stage.

5. (Previously presented) A gas generation system according to Claim 4,
further comprising a temperature sensor disposed at an inlet or an outlet of the
adiabatic stage for regulating a quantity of at least one of air and fuel to be supplied
to the adiabatic stage.

6. (Original) A gas generation system according to Claim 1, wherein the
normalizing stage is a heat exchanger.

7. (Original) A gas generation system according to Claim 1, wherein the
normalizing stage is a catalytically heated reactor.

8. (Previously presented) A gas generation system according to Claim 7, further comprising a temperature sensor for regulating a quantity of at least one of air or fuel to be supplied to the catalytically heated reactor, wherein the temperature sensor cooperates with a control unit that controls a control valve located in at least one of a supply line for air and for fuel, and wherein the temperature sensor can be disposed on an inlet side of a gas flow or an outlet side of the gas flow of the catalytically heated reactor.

9. (Currently amended) A method for providing a gas flow to be supplied to a reformer, comprising:

evaporating, with an evaporator, at least one component, thereby producing a gas flow containing at least one carbon compound and water vapor;

equalizing, with a primary side of a normalizing stage connected between the evaporator and the reformer, temperature valleys and peaks of the gas flow to be supplied to the reformer to within a temperature range below a maximal allowable reformer inlet temperature before the gas flow is introduced into the reformer; and supplying heat to the primary side via a secondary side of the normalizing stage.

10. (Original) A method according to Claim 9, wherein the at least one carbon compound is a hydrocarbon or alcohol.

11. (Original) A method according to Claim 9, wherein for multi-stage evaporating, the temperature of the gas flow is equalized after a last evaporation stage.

12. (Currently amended) A method ~~according to Claim 9,~~ for providing a gas flow to be supplied to a reformer, comprising:

evaporating at least one component, thereby producing a gas flow containing at least one carbon compound and water vapor; and

equalizing temperature valleys and peaks of the gas flow to be supplied to the reformer to within a temperature range below a maximal allowable reformer inlet temperature before the gas flow is introduced into the reformer;

wherein said equalizing of a temperature of the gas flow is by an adiabatic stage.

13. (Original) A method according to Claim 12, further comprising regulating a quantity of at least one of air or fuel supplied to the adiabatic stage as a function of a temperature of the gas flow.

14. (Original) A method according to Claim 9, wherein said equalizing of a temperature of the gas flow is by a heat exchanger.

15. (Original) A method according to Claim 9, wherein said equalizing of a temperature of the gas flow is by a catalytically heated reactor.

16. (Original) A method according to Claim 14, further comprising regulating a quantity of at least one of air or fuel supplied to the catalytically heated reactor as a function of the temperature of the gas flow.